

**Statement to the 5<sup>th</sup> Committee by the chair of the Joint Inspection Unit**  
**M. Mounir Zahran**  
**New York, 5 March 2012**

Mr Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

I am honored to introduce the Joint Inspection Unit Annual Report for 2011 and Programme of work for 2012.

We are starting a new biennium during which JIU inspectors expect to continue to strengthen their performance and relevance to the work of the system. This implies proceeding vigorously with our ongoing reform process, as requested by the GA. The reform, initiated by the Unit in 2003, embraces 5 areas: Relevance of JIU reports, follow-up of recommendations, working methods, professionalism of staff and composition of the Unit. Progress has been made for all areas not requiring any further resolution by Member states, such as it is the case concerning the composition of the Unit. Progress has been made in the remaining four areas, through internal management changes in the secretariat and enhanced quality assurance measures formalized within the revised Unit's internal working procedures, adopted in early 2011, with a view to ensure increased performance, efficiency and effectiveness in delivering the JIU's mandate. An internal review of the evaluation norms and standards confirmed that the established practices in the JIU are well in line with the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) norms and standards. I am pleased to announce that in February 2012 the Unit updated its norms and standards for evaluation in line with the UNEG norms and standards

In 2011, the Joint Inspection Unit completed 11 reports and one Note, thus reaching a total number of 23 outputs for the last biennium. In addition to this core activity, the Unit devoted a significant amount of resources –human and financial – to the development of its Web-based Tracking system (WBTS) for the follow-up on implementation of recommendations among its participating organizations. The WBTS will be operational in mid 2012. Targeted training and briefing sessions will be organized to enable the focal points of the participating organizations

and member states to learn about the modalities available to use the said system on line. The Unit has also invested in revamping its website and in digitizing the JIU archives so that all JIU products will be made available on line to the public by the end of 2012.

In 2011, the Unit introduced a pilot approach for defining the Programme of Work (PoW) for 2012 and 2013. This would reduce the workload of both the secretariat and of the participating organizations. The interactive consultative process with participating organizations was strengthened so as to include their priorities into a preliminary long-list of potential projects suggested to the JIU. The Inspectors, meeting at their Winter session, selected 12 new projects for its PoW 2012 among which 3 are mandated, as well as a Roster for 2012.

These changes are expected to reduce the workload of participating organizations in submitting new suggestions and for the secretariat to undertake their highly-demanding screening. These changes will also enhance the planning of resources approved for the present biennium and the projected 2013 programme of work which will be revisited in December 2012.

The Unit has been actively engaged in system-wide initiatives such as the Delivering as One (DaO) Evaluation and the task-force on system-wide evaluation. On the former, the JIU hosted two meetings in Geneva that contributed to the progress made towards delivering the evaluation on Delivering as One and provided one inspector to be a member of the reference group in addition to his normal activity in the Unit.

On system-wide evaluation, the Unit is pleased with the emerging outcome of the review undertaken by the independent external consultants which confirms that the JIU as the only independent external oversight body of the United Nations system mandated to conduct evaluations, inspections and investigations system-wide must play a central role in a more effective system-wide evaluation mechanism. I trust that the report's key recommendation - to provide the Unit with the opportunity to show its capacity to coordinate system-wide evaluation - becomes a central piece of discussions on how to make progress on JIU reform and on implementing the consultants' report in light of its consideration by the General Assembly which is to be submitted later this year. I can say on behalf of the Unit, as the Chair, that the JIU stands ready for honoring this task as it has always done and to undertake new assignments if agreed 'by member states. We agree, however, with the consultants, that such an endeavor cannot be cost-neutral and will have implications for the way the Unit organizes and resources its work.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

The JIU remains fully committed to implementing its mandate and trusts the Committee to ensure that JIU reports and recommendations are duly considered and tabled for submission to the pertinent fora and legislative bodies and, above all, to the General Assembly. The Unit trusts that due and explicit consideration would be given to the JIU recommendations, their implementation and their follow-up.

On behalf of the Unit, I thank you for your continued proactive support in this regard.